OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 325-2013

RECEIVED 2013 SEP - 9 PM 4: 44 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jimmy Morales, City Manager

DATE:

August 26, 2013

SUBJECT: Cat Feeding Stations - Pilot Program

The purpose of this LTC is to inform you that the City of Miami Beach Community Outreach Team is working with The Cat Network, Inc. to address some of the concerns raised from the community regarding feeding of cats directly on the boardwalk.

In March, 2012, PetSmart Charities awarded the City of Miami Beach \$80,000 for a two vear period to trap, neuter and release (TNR) 2000 free roaming cats. The City entered into an agreement with The Cat Network, Inc to implement the program funded by PetSmart Charities. To date, approximately 1200 cats have been spayed and neutered. Cat feeders are part of the solution to controlling the numbers of cats on Miami Beach. Four people feed over 200 cats daily in the boardwalk area. Not only do they feed the cats but also monitor the free roaming population for any special attention that is required to keep them healthy.

In collaboration with The Cat Network, Inc., it is proposed to implement a one month pilot program that will place cat feeding stations below the boardwalk. The stations will help to contain the food and keep out of site of the general public. It will be more manageable for the feeders and they will be able to maintain a clean and litter free area. Laws require that all food and dishes be picked up following each feeding. The Cat Network, Inc. has assumed the costs for building the feeding stations. There is no cost to the City.

The Miami Beach Police Department newly designated Animal Resource Officer, Code Compliance Department, Public Works Property Management Division and Community Outreach, work closely to assist in support of the efforts and also provide educational information to those involved in the campaign. Many feeders participate in the trap, neuter, release program (TNR) conducted by The Cat Network, Inc.

Should you have any additional questions, please contact Lynn W. Bernstein, Community Outreach Coordinator, City Manager's Office, 305-673-7010.